

From: Bill Huffman
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have followed the Microsoft case with interest from the beginning and was profoundly dissappointed in the accord that was reached a short while ago. Microsoft has intentionally violated the antitrust laws from the beginning, violated them while negotiating a settlement, is doing so currently, and I have no doubt will continue to no matter what aggreement is reached. The only thing to do is weaken them so that they will be less able to do damage.

As for their claim that such a move would reduce innovation, I state from my 20 years in the computer business that Microsoft has never been a major factor in innovation and that in recent years, they have cut out most innovation in the PC business. Any idea which is brought to a venture capitalist in this valley (Silicon Valley) must pass the test: "Will Microsoft, by any conceivable turn of events be interested in pursuing this technology itself?" If the answer is yes, the idea will not be funded. The venture capitalists know that Microsoft will do anything, legal or illegal, to get where they want to go, and that a good idea is no defense against Microsoft's treachery. Thus is innovation stifled in the PC area.

Microsoft will almost certainly make a joke of its promise to disseminate information about interfacing to their software. There are scores of ways not to help other software companies without appearing to do so and Microsoft has shown both the will and ability to do things like this before.

I have a friend who interviewed at Microsoft. He interviewed with Bill Gates. The only subject in the entire interview was how my friend would propose to force others out of the market for the portion of Microsoft my friend might run.

Mr. Gates was not interested in anything about him but what his business plan would be to take over the market and force others out.

Microsoft shows absolutely no signs of changing any of this and the present ruling is a sign that they (and others) are perfectly free to go on using their monopoly position in Windows and in Word Document Format to force others to accept their domination of yet more markets.

Bill

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